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110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3024

To amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide nurse home visitation services under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2007

Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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A BILL

To amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide nurse home visitation services under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Healthy Children and Families Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program have collectively provided health insurance coverage to over 38,000,000 low-income pregnant women and children.

(2) Evidence-based nurse home visitation programs can improve the health status of low-income pregnant women and children enrolled in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program by promoting access to prenatal and well-baby care, reducing pre-term births, reducing high-risk pregnancies, increasing time intervals between first and subsequent births, and improving child cognitive, social, and behavioral skills and development.

(3) In addition to health benefits, evidence-based nurse home visitation programs have been proven to increase maternal employment and economic self-sufficiency and significantly reduce child abuse and neglect, child arrests, maternal arrests, and involvement in the criminal justice system.

(4) Evidence-based nurse home visitation programs are cost effective, yielding a 5-to-1 return on investment for every dollar spent on services, and producing a net benefit to society of $34,000 per high risk family served.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to encourage States to utilize evidence-based nurse home visitation services for low-income pregnant mothers and children to—

(1) improve the prenatal health of children;

(2) improve pregnancy outcomes;

(3) improve child health and development;

(4) improve child development and mental health related to elementary school readiness;

(5) improve family stability and economic self-sufficiency;

(6) reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect;

(7) reduce maternal and child involvement in the criminal justice system; and

(8) increase birth intervals between pregnancies.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR STATES TO PROVIDE NURSE HOME VISITATION SERVICES.

(a) SCHIP.—Section 2110(a)(15) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(a)(15)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" after "(15)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B)(i) Evidence-based nurse home visitation services (such as services related to improving pre-

natal health, pregnancy outcomes, child health and development, school readiness, family stability and economic self-sufficiency, reducing child abuse, neglect, and injury, reducing maternal and child involvement in the criminal justice system, and increasing birth intervals between pregnancies) on behalf of a targeted low-income child who has not attained age 2 and is the first live birth to a biological mother, but only if such services are provided in accordance with outcome standards that have been replicated in multiple, rigorous, randomized controlled trials in multiple sites, with outcomes that improve prenatal health of children, pregnancy outcomes, child health, child development, academic achievement, and mental health, reduce child abuse, neglect, and injury, reduce maternal and child involvement in the criminal justice system, increase birth intervals between pregnancies, and improve maternal employment.".

(b) MEDICAID.—Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (27), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (28) as paragraph (29); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (27) the following:

"(28) evidence-based nurse home visitation services (such as services related to improving prenatal health, pregnancy outcomes, child health and development, school readiness, family stability and economic self-sufficiency, reducing child abuse, neglect, and injury, reducing maternal and child involvement in the criminal justice system, and increasing birth intervals between pregnancies) for a first-time pregnant woman or on behalf of a child who has not attained age 2 and is the first live birth to a biological mother, but only if such services are provided in accordance with outcome standards that have been replicated in multiple, rigorous, randomized controlled trials in multiple sites, with outcomes that improve prenatal health of children, pregnancy outcomes, child health, child development, academic achievement, and mental health, reduce child abuse, neglect, and injury, reduce maternal and child involvement in the criminal justice system, increase birth intervals between pregnancies, and improve maternal employment; and".

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by this Act shall be construed as affect-

ing the ability of a State under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act or the State Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act to provide nurse home visitation services as part of another class of items and services falling within the definition of medical assistance or child health assistance under such titles, or as an administrative expenditure for which payment is made under section 1903(a) or 2105(a) of such Act, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) TIMELY APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS OR PROPOSALS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in a timely manner, review and notify a State of the Secretary's approval or disapproval of—

(1) any proposed amendment to a State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide nurse home visitation services as medical assistance described in section 1905(a)(28) of such Act;

(2) any proposed amendment to a State child health plan under title XXI of such Act to provide such services as child health assistance described in section 2110(a)(15)(B) of such Act; or

(3) any proposal submitted under section 1115 of such Act to provide nurse home visitation services described in sections 1905(a)(28) and

2110(a)(15)(B) of such Act under a waiver approved under such section 1115.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2007, and apply to child health assistance provided under title XXI of the Social Security Act and medical assistance provided under title XIX of such Act on or after that date.

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